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above rules meets with objection on the part of some, who claim that in the case of societies which publish irregularly and at long intervals, it seems wrong to withhold the extras until the whole volume is published. This frequently would result in a delay of months, or even of years. For instance, one volume of the *Transactions of the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences* has been kept incomplete for over a dozen years, awaiting the dilatoriness of an author who has failed to submit the manuscript of an article accepted for publication. All such difficulties, it seems to us, would be obviated by following the course adopted by several societies, among them the Boston Society of Natural History and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, of issuing each paper separately as soon as it is ready.

In regard to Article 4, we wish that the committee could have gone farther, and have expressed its opinion of a tendency to split up what should form a single article into a number of articles, each with its own heading. We recall one extreme case of a single volume, in which an author had over a dozen articles upon the larval stages of as many different Lepidoptera, each with its own title, and each, by all rules of bibliography, entitled to rank as a separate article, while all might readily be embraced under a single heading. Similar cases abound in the literature of species describing; and their only excuse seems to be that the authors wished to have as many titles as possible to their credit (?) in the bibliographies.

The sixth suggestion is one that if followed will eventually bring to an end a host of trials and tribulations of the systematist. Such names are almost sure to be lost for years. For instance, the late Dr. Haldemann years ago described the crustacean genus *Abacura*. How many carcinologists know of the description? Then, what shall be done with isolated descriptions in school books? And what with suggestions like the following? In *Science*, Vol. viii, No. 201, p. 613, Dr. Dall, in a notice of Bitners's Lamellibranchs of the trias of St. Cassian, speaks of the preoccupied name *Arcoptera* and says, "We would suggest that the preoccupied name be replaced by *Bitternerella*." This occurs in an article which would be apt to be overlooked by the systematist; and again this able conchologist does not actually rename the genus but suggests that it be renamed, as if fully cognizant of the incongruity of time and place.

**The Utilization of Desert Areas.** — With the increase of our population the extent of our desert areas has constantly diminished through the use of crops adapted to the climate and by irrigation,

so that lands once thought to be uninhabitable are now veritable gardens. One of the most forlorn-appearing regions is the Red Desert of Southwestern Wyoming, which has of late years become an important winter pasture ground for the herds and flocks which feed by summer in the adjacent states. A careful study of the forage plants of the Red Desert, by Prof. Aven Nelson, has just been issued by the Department of Agriculture. It enumerates a large number of salt sages, sagebrushes, grasses, and sedges found in the desert, and figures many of them. The work is important, not merely economically, as giving suggestions for agricultural plants adapted to desert regions, but also as a contribution to the knowledge of the adaptations of desert animals.

**Animal Photographs.** — Photography is rapidly becoming in a variety of ways one of the necessary tools of a working naturalist, and one of its most important uses is in connection with the production of process figures to illustrate zoological works. The immense superiority of such figures over the conventional woodcuts could not be better shown than in Dr. R. W. Schufeldt's article on "Some Characteristic Attitudes of the Red Squirrel," in the June *Photographic Times*. A zoological text-book, illustrated by such figures as these, would be a pleasure to every lover of animals, as well as a source of information.

We learn that entomological books of all kinds can be imported into Canada free of all customs duties. We, in the United States, have a tariff expressly designed for the protection of ignorance. Books in the English language can be imported duty free only when over twenty years old.